(a) whether it is a fact that Bee-chcraft was purchased by the Railways during the last year and if so, at what cost and what is the expenditure incurred so far and maintenance and operation of the said air-craft, upto the end of March, 1995;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Railways during the last three years on account of hiring of com-mercial aircrafts; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance was consulted before the purchase of the aircraft and if so, the details thereof; if not, what are the reasons therefor and at what level the deci-sion for the purchase was taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. A Beechcraft aircraft was purchased by IRCON in May, 1994 at a cbst of US$ 4.46 million (Rs. 14.05 crores). Its operations and mainten-nance cost upto the end of 31st March, 1995 has come to Rs. 2.39 erores.

(b) The information is being col lected and will be laid bn the Table; of the House.

(c) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways have independent budget which is vetted by a Financial Commissioner who is a representative of Ministry of Finance. The proposal for pur chase of the aircraft was a new ser vice/new instrument of service, for which approval of Parliament was obtained through a Supplementary Demand for Grants (1993-94) in August, '93. This is in accordance with the extant instructions issued by Ministry of Finance.

Provision of Cool Wagons at Tatcher Coal Fields

8087. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aw are of frequent shut-downs at Rai chur Thermal Power Station due to erratic supply of coal from Singaren Colleries, attributed to poor linkag despite prompt payment by RTPS to coal Companies|Raflways;

(b) whether Govemment have re ceived any request from the Karna taka Government to provide adequa te coal wagons at Talcher Coe Fields for speedy movement to RTPS in order to establish an alternat source of coal Supply; and

(c) whether Government would provide all rail movement of coa from Talcher to Raichur, to enabl the RTPS to function to its rate< capacity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a to (c) There has been no communi cation regarding shut down at Rai chur Thermal Power Station for shortage of coal. Due to strike it Singareni coal fields since mid April '95 to first week of May '95 coal mo vement from Singareni Coal field was seriously affected. Railways moved larger quantities from WCL SECL and MCI. Coalfields and ensur ed 100 per cent compliance during April 95 and 90 per cent compliance in May 95. Input could not to stepped up further due to inabilit: of the Power House to unload wagon: expeditiously. It is Railways' endea your to move coal as per linkage san ctioned by Standing Linkage Commit tee which also includes movement from Talcher.

Non-reflection of Railways Reserve Fund in the Annual Accounts

8088, SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Accumulatecd Depreciation Fund, Reserve Func Revenue Reserve Fund, Developmen